

NO. X06-UWY-CV-18-6046436-S : SUPERIOR COURT
ERICA LAFFERTY, ET AL. : COMPLEX LITIGATION DOCKET
V. : AT WATERBURY
ALEX EMRIC JONES, ET AL. : JUNE 1, 2022

NO. X-06-UWY-CV18-6046437-S : SUPERIOR COURT
WILLIAM SHERLACH : COMPLEX LITIGATION DOCKET
V. : AT WATERBURY
ALEX EMRIC JONES, ET AL. : JUNE 1, 2022

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PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO WITHDRAW APPEARANCES

The plaintiffs oppose the Motion to Withdraw Appearances.¹ As the Court explained in its November 15, 2021 sanctions order defaulting the Jones defendants,² the “history of the

¹ A Motion to Withdraw as Counsel was also filed in the bankruptcy court on May 9, 2022. *See* Ex. A, Mot. to Withdraw as Counsel filed in Bankr. D. Conn., Adv. Proc. No. 22-05004 (ECF No. 20); Ex. B, Mot. to Withdraw as Counsel filed in Bankr. D. Conn., Adv. Proc. No. 22-05005 (ECF No. 17); Ex. C, Mot. to Withdraw as Counsel filed in Bankr. D. Conn., Adv. Proc. No. 22-05006 (ECF 16). The plaintiffs oppose that motion for the reasons stated in this opposition.

² At the time this action was removed, there were five “Jones defendants”: Alex Jones; Free Speech Systems, LLC; InfoWars, LLC; InfoWars Health, LLC; and Prison Planet TV, LLC. InfoWars, LLC; InfoWars Health, LLC; and Prison Planet TV, LLC are assetless, functionless shell companies solely controlled by Alex Jones. These three entities filed “reorganization” bankruptcy petitions in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas. (Alex Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC did not seek bankruptcy protection.) On the basis of that bogus bankruptcy, the three shell companies then removed these cases to the Connecticut

attorneys who have appeared for the [Jones] defendants . . . is a convoluted one,” and one that has previously impeded progress toward trial and contributed to the Jones defendants’ strategy of obfuscation and delay. *See* DN 574, 11/15/21 Mem. Of Decis. at 4:11-14, 14:15-17.

As the record reflects, on June 28, 2018, Attorney Wolman appeared for all five of the Jones defendants. Eight months later, on March 1st, 2019, Attorney Wolman is out of the case and Pattis & Smith filed an in-lieu-of appearance for all five defendants. On February 24, 2020, Attorney Latonica also appeared for all five defendants. Five months later on July 7, 2020, Attorney Latonica and Pattis & Smith [are] now out of the case and Attorney Wolman is back in the case for all five defendants. Then on June 28, 2020, Pattis and Smith is back in the case, but now only appears for the four LLC defendants.

Id. At 4:18-5:2. The Court found that this “convoluted,” series of appearances and withdrawals was part of a “transparent attempt to cloud the issues by Pattis & Smith,” *id.* at 4:14, 5:4-5:5. For this reason alone, another change of counsel should not be permitted.

In addition, the plaintiffs oppose any action that could potentially delay the trial date in this case. Jury selection is scheduled to begin on August 2, 2022 and trial is scheduled to begin on September 1. The Court told the parties in March that “the existing trial date . . . is a firm trial date and parties and counsel should plan accordingly.” DN 788, 3/30/22 Hearing Tr. at 25:4-9. The Jones defendants immediately removed, in a transparent attempt to delay this proceeding. The plaintiffs oppose any action that would delay trial – and permitting the Jones defendants’ current counsel to withdraw would likely to cause delay. The Motion to Withdraw appears to represent that the Jones defendants have not retained counsel to replace the withdrawing counsel. *See* DN 812, Mot. to Withdraw at 2 (“The undersigned . . . have referred the Defendants to competent members of the Court’s bar for future representation.”). Accordingly, the plaintiffs

Bankruptcy Court. In order to secure the earliest possible remand, the plaintiffs obtained the dismissal of their claims against these three shell companies. Accordingly, the plaintiffs now use the term “Jones defendants” to refer to Alex Jones and FSS, the remaining Jones entities in the case.

oppose the Motion to Withdraw because it is likely to cause a delay of the scheduled trial date and further prejudice the plaintiffs.

For these reasons, the Court should deny the Motion to Withdraw Appearances.

THE PLAINTIFFS,

By: /s/ Alinor C. Sterling
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CERTIFICATION

I certify that a copy of the above was or will immediately be mailed or delivered electronically or nonelectronically on this date to all counsel and self-represented parties of record and that written consent for electronic delivery was received from all counsel and self-represented parties of record who were or will immediately be electronically served.

For Alex Emric Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC:

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Cameron L. Atkinson, Esq.
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For dismissed defendants still remaining on the Superior Court Docket, Infowars, LLC, Infowars Health, LLC and Prison Planet TV, LLC:

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/s/ Alinor C. Sterling

ALINOR C. STERLING
CHRISTOPHER M. MATTEI
COLIN S. ANTAYA

EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT
BRIDGEPORT DIVISION**

ERICA LAFFERTY; DAVID WHEELER;
FRANCINE WHEELER; JACQUELINE
BARDEN; MARK BARDEN; NICOLE
HOCKLEY; IAN HOCKLEY; JENNIFER
HENSEL; JEREMY RICHMAN; DONNA
SOTO; CARLEE SOTO-PARISI; CARLOS
M. SOTO; JILLIAN SOTO; AND WILLIAM
ALDENBERG,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ALEX EMRIC JONES; INFOWARS, LLC;
FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC;
INFOWARS HEALTH, LLC; PRISON
PLANET TV, LLC; WOLFGANG
HALBIG; CORY T. SKLANKA; GENESIS
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC.;
and MIDAS RESOURCES, INC.,

Defendants.

ADV. PROC. NO. 22-05004

May 9, 2022

MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL

Pursuant to Local Bankr. R. 9083-4 and D. Conn. L. Civ. R. 7(e), the undersigned respectfully moves for permission to withdraw as counsel for Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC. To the extent that Attorneys Norman A. Pattis,¹ Kevin M. Smith, and Zachary Reiland and the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC have

¹ Attorney Pattis was formerly lead counsel in this matter for the Defendants. Due to difficulties in processing his e-filing registration for this court, he did not file a formal appearance despite signing initial pleadings, but the undersigned represents that, to the best of his knowledge, Attorney Pattis is a member of the District of Connecticut's bar in good standing.

appeared in the underlying action and their appearances are recognized in this matter, the undersigned respectfully moves that the Court include them in its order granting this motion to withdraw as all are members of the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC.

In support of this motion, the undersigned represents as follows:

1. I am an attorney with the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC duly licensed to practice law before all Connecticut state and federal courts.

2. I represented Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC in the Connecticut state civil action that was removed to this Court by virtue of a personal appearance in addition to my firm's formal appearance.

3. Per Connecticut practice, Attorneys Norman A. Pattis, Kevin M. Smith, and Zachary Reiland also represented Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC by virtue of an appearance on behalf of our law firm, Pattis & Smith, LLC.

4. The Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC have discharged the undersigned, his colleagues, and the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC.

5. Pursuant to Connecticut Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(a)(3), the undersigned and his colleagues' withdrawal is mandatory.

6. The undersigned and his colleagues have provided the Defendants' Texas counsel with referrals to competent members of the Court's bar and Connecticut's bar to replace them.

7. The undersigned and his colleagues' motion to withdraw does not violate the automatic stay imposed by the Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. § 362 *et seq.*) because it is not a proceeding "against the debtor."

Thus, the undersigned respectfully requests the Court to grant the motion to withdraw.²

Date: May 9, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Cameron L. Atkinson /s/
Cameron L. Atkinson (ct31219)
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² Judge Barbara Bellis of the Connecticut Superior Court previously issued an order in this case directing counsel to file motions to withdraw their appearance if they became necessary instead of simply having successor counsel file in lieu of appearances as is permissible under Connecticut practice.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the date of filing, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served by U.S.P.S. and, where indicated, email on the following parties:

Attn: Eric Goldstein, Jessica M. Signor
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Genesis Communications Network, Inc.
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for Service
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Burnsville, MN 55337

The undersigned further certifies that a copy of this motion was served on the Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC by priority U.S. mail. Out of respect for the Defendants' oft-stated interests, the undersigned does not list their addresses.

/s/ Cameron L. Atkinson /s/
Cameron L. Atkinson

EXHIBIT B

appeared in the underlying action and their appearances are recognized in this matter, the undersigned respectfully moves that the Court include them in its order granting this motion to withdraw as all are members of the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC.

In support of this motion, the undersigned represents as follows:

1. I am an attorney with the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC duly licensed to practice law before all Connecticut state and federal courts.

2. I represented Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC in the Connecticut state civil action that was removed to this Court by virtue of a personal appearance in addition to my firm's formal appearance.

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4. The Defendants Alex Jones, Free Speech Systems, InfoW, LLC (f/k/a Infowars, LLC), IWHealth, LLC (f/k/a Infowars Health, LLC), and Prison Planet TV, LLC have discharged the undersigned, his colleagues, and the law firm of Pattis & Smith, LLC.

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EXHIBIT C

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